

*W. B. R.*

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY-FIFTH SYNOD

OF THE

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN MINISTERIUM,

OF THE

STATE OF NEW YORK,

AND

ADJACENT STATES AND COUNTRIES,

HELD AT

CHURCHTOWN, COLUMBIA CO., N. Y.

AUGUST 31 TO SEPTEMBER 3, 1850.

ALBANY;

PRINTED BY JOEL MUNSELL,

1850.



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## MINUTES.

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CHURCHTOWN, COLUMBIA Co., SATURDAY, Aug. 31st, 1850.

In compliance with resolution xxvi, of the fifty-fourth Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of the state of New York and adjacent states and countries, the clerical members of the Ministerium, and lay delegates from congregations, assembled *this afternoon*, (Saturday preceding the first Sunday in September, A. D. 1850). The meeting was held in conformity to notices previously issued, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of *Churchtown*, Columbia county, N. Y., under the pastoral charge of Rev. J. C. Duy. The *place* appointed by said resolution (*Saddle River, N. J.*) having been recently changed by the officers of the Ministerium, as the vacancy occasioned by the removal of the late pastor had not been supplied six weeks before the meeting.

At 4 o'clock, P. M., services were held in the church, preparatory to the celebration of the Lord's Supper. A sermon was delivered by Rev. C. W. Schaeffer, delegate from the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Pennsylvania, on Psalm 17: 15. The rite of confirmation was administered, and the usual concluding exercises were conducted by the pastor of the congregation, assisted by the president.

In the evening, at half-past 7 o'clock, Rev. M. Mallinson preached on 2 Timothy, 2: 25-26.



SUNDAY, Sept. 1st, 1850.

Divine service commenced at half-past 10 o'clock, A. M. The president of the Ministerium delivered the Synodical discourse, text, Coloss. 2: 10. The congregation united with the ministers and lay delegates in partaking of the Lord's Supper, which the officers of the Ministerium administered, assisted by several brethren.

In the afternoon, at 3 o'clock, Rev. Charles F. Schaeffer delivered a discourse on Math. 16: 13-16.

In the evening, at half-past 7 o'clock, Rev. Dr. Pohlman delivered a discourse on Psalm 81: 10.

Divine service was conducted in the morning at half-past 10 o'clock in the Mellenville church, by Rev. C. Riemensnyder; text, Math. 11: 28, and in the Ghent church, by Rev. E. Deyoe; text, 1 Peter, 2: 7.

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### First Session of the Synod.

MONDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock, Sept. 2.

According to previous notice, the clergymen and lay delegates assembled in the church at 9 o'clock, A. M., for the transaction of business. The session was opened by the president, with singing and prayer.

The roll was called, and the lay delegates presented their certificates of appointment. The following catalogue of the ministers and delegates composing the body, exhibits the several changes which were made in the list of members during the sessions, together with the action of the Ministerium in reference to absent members, and was arranged at the close of the Synod. Those marked (A) were absent, *with* excuse; (B), absent *without* excuse; (C), admitted during the sessions; (D), honorably dismissed to other Synods, during the sessions; (E), licensed at the close of Synod; (F), ordained at the close of Synod.



## Ordained Ministers.

## Post Offices.

- 1 Rev. P. F. MAYER, D. D.,..... *Philadelphia, Pa.*
- 2 " A. WACKERHAGEN, D. D., *A, Clermont Columbia Co., N. Y.*
- 3 " J. W. STARMAN, *A* ..... *Waldoboro', Maine.*
- 4 " G. B. MILLER, D. D., ..... *Hartwick Semi., Otsego Co., N. Y.*
- 5 " H. N. POHLMAN, D. D., ..... *Albany, N. Y.*
- 6 " F. H. GUENTHER, ..... *Buffalo, N. Y.*
- 7 " H. H. HAYUNGA, *A* ..... *Waddington, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y.*
- 8 " W. D. STROBEL, D. D., ..... *Valatie, Columbia Co., N. Y.*
- 9 " C. A. SMITH, ..... *Rhinebeck, Dutchess Co., N. Y.*
- 10 " R. COLLIER, ..... *New Hampton, Hunterdon Co., N. J.*
- 11 " A. WETZEL, ..... *Utica, N. Y.*
- 12 " C. MARTIN, ..... *413 Broome st., New York city.*
- 13 " J. C. DUY, ..... *Cloverack, Columbia Co., N. Y.*
- 14 " J. MUHLHEISER, *D* ..... *Milwaukie, Wisconsin.*
- 15 " W. F. VEIL, *A* ..... *North Boston, Erie Co., N. Y.*
- 16 " W. SHARTS, *B* ..... *Waddington, St. Lawrence Co. N. Y.*
- 17 " P. H. DENNLER, *A* ..... *Lyons, Wayne Co., N. Y.*
- 18 " G. NEFF, ..... *179 Wood street, Philadelphia, Pa.*
- 19 " F. W. SCHMIDT, ..... *Albany, N. Y.*
- 20 " E. DEYOE, ..... *German Valley, Morris Co., N. J.*
- 21 " G. J. KEMPE, ..... *Rochester, N. Y.*
- 22 " C. F. E. STOHLMAN, ..... *165 Mott street, New York city.*
- 23 " J. R. KEISER, *A D* ..... *Schoharie, N. Y.*
- 24 " F. G. MASCHOP, *B* ..... *Newark, N. J.*
- 25 " J. EISENLORD, *A* ..... *Fort Plain, N. Y.*
- 26 " C. F. W. RECHENBERG, ..... *Syracuse, N. Y.*
- 27 " C. F. SCHAEFFER, ..... *Red Hook, Dutchess Co., N. Y.*
- 28 " F. T. WINKELMANN, ..... *Brooklyn, N. Y.*
- 29 " W. B. ASKAM, *A* ..... *California.*
- 30 " C. H. SIEBKE, ..... *Rondout, Ulster Co., N. Y.*
- 31 " A. H. M. HELD, *B* ..... *198 Allen street, New York city.*
- 32 " H. J. SCHMIDT, *A C* ..... *424 Greenwich street, N. Y. city.*
- 33 " M. WALTERMIRE, *C* ..... *New Prospect, Bergen Co., N. J.*
- 34 " J. RUGAN, *A C* ..... *Ghent, Columbia Co., N. Y.*
- 35 " C. A. SCHROER, *F* ..... *New London, Oneida Co., N. Y.*
- 36 " C. L. KNAPP, *F* ..... *Lancaster, Erie Co., N. Y.*
- 37 " G. S. COLLINS *C F* ..... *N. Germantown, Hunterdon Co. N. J.*
- 38 " M. MALLINSON, *C* ..... *Ancram, Columbia Co., N. Y.*
- 39 " C. W. SCHAEFFER, ..... *Delegate of Synod of Pennsylvania.*



- ## Lay Delegates.

## From the Congregations of

- [At the regular election of officers in 1849, the following members were chosen, according to the constitution, for a period of *three* years:



Rev. W. D. STROBEL, *President*,

“ C. F. SCHAEFFER, *Secretary*.

“ J. C. DUY, *Treasurer*.

The following committees, appointed in 1849, also remain without change:

*Examining Committee*, for receiving applications for license, &c.—Rev. Messrs. C. F. E. Stohlman, C. Martin, A. Wackerhagen, C. A. Smith, H. N. Pohlman, G. B. Miller, C. F. Schaeffer.

*Board of Education and Missions*.—Rev. Messrs. Pohlman, Wackerhagen, Miller, C. A. Smith, Schaeffer, Duy, Kempe, Stohlman, Martin, Wetzel, Deyoe, and Messrs. Engs, Schultz, J. Bartles, Fellows, H. J. Ochtershausen, C. Groat, R. Williams.

*Executive Committee*, appointed by the Board—Rev. Messrs. C. A. Smith, C. F. Schaeffer, J. C. Duy, C. Martin, H. N. Pohlman, C. F. E. Stohlman, and Messrs. Engs and B. Schultz.]

The President read his annual report, which was accepted. (*See Appendix.*)

On motion, it was

(I) *Resolved*, That the President's report be laid upon the table, and that its contents be considered at a later stage of the proceedings.

(II) *Resolved*, That the daily sessions of this Synod commence in the morning at 9 o'clock, and in the afternoon at half past 2 o'clock.

(III) *Resolved*, That the reading of the minutes of the Synod of the preceding year be omitted, and that said minutes be referred to a committee of three, with instructions to report on them to-morrow morning.

*Committee*.—Rev. Messrs. Martin and Wetzel, Mr. Henry Staats.

The following documents, &c., were presented, at the call of the President for communications directed to this Ministerium:

(a) A printed pamphlet entitled “Plea for Hillsboro' College and Seminary, by S. W. Harkey, A. M.” Referred to a *committee*, consisting of Rev. Messrs. Pohlman, Neff and Siebke.

(b) A letter from Dr. J. G. Morris of Baltimore, Md., accom-



panied by a printed "Appeal of the Executive Committee of the Home Missionary Society." Referred to the *same committee*.

(c) A letter from the pastor and church council of St. John's church, Newark, N. J. Referred to a *committee*, consisting of Rev. Messrs. G. B. Miller and Guenther, and Mr. S. Sloat.

(d) A letter from the Rev. E. H. Buehre and the church council of a German congregation in Williamsburgh, Long Island, praying that the congregation which they represent be received into connection with this body, and be placed under its care. The Ministerium, on motion,

(IV) *Resolved*, That this request be granted, and that the full connection of said congregation with this Ministerium be hereby declared and acknowledged.

(e) Various copies of minutes of sister Synods referred to a *committee*, consisting of Rev. Messrs. Deyoe, Collier and Rechenberg.

(f) A copy of a collection of German Lutheran hymns, presented by the delegate of the Pennsylvania Synod. Referred to a *committee*, consisting of Rev. Messrs. G. B. Miller, Guenther and Kempe.

#### *Absent Members.*

The Secretary was directed to call the names of absent members; various written apologies were read. The results of the action of the Synod are partially exhibited in the foregoing catalogue of members; the cases reserved for special action are the following: The letters respectively sent by Rev. Messrs. Veil, Dennler and Held, were referred to a Ministerial session, to be held after the Synodical session to-morrow morning. The President was directed to inform Rev. Mr. Sharts that this body regard his continued absence from its regular annual meetings with disapprobation, and that a perseverance in this course may, on a future occasion, be regarded as contumacy, and lead to the erasure of his name from the list of members.

The *parochial reports* were presented; their contents are arranged in the following *Tabular View* and *Additions*. The names of members who have no pastoral charge (teachers in academies, &c.), or who furnished no parochial reports are omitted.



*Tabular View of the Parochial Reports.*

Pastors.	Congregations.	BAPTISMS.		Confirmed.	Admitted from other churches.	Partaken of the Lord's supper.	Entitled to communion.	Removed.	Withdrawn under other circumstances.	Deaths of members.	Funerals attended.	Sunday schools.	Teachers.	Scholars.
		Infants.	Adults.											
Rev. P. F. Mayer,	1	40	2	11	2	267	246			7	20	2	45	454
" A. Wackerhagen,	2	54	1	14	4	117	48			2	30	1	9	56
" G. B. Miller,	1	17	3	10	6	126		3		2	96	2	26	149
" H. N. Pohlman,	1	170		8		600	147				19	2	3	80
" F. H. Guenther,	1	11		62		120	278	2		1	21	2	18	162
" W. D. Strobel,	2	5	2	4	1	202				1	25	2		
" C. A. Smith,	2	14		9		89				1	15	2	20	145
" R. Collier,	1	66		10		267	200			4	24	3	15	
" A. Weizel,	1	18	3	7	1	225	300	7		2	5			
" C. Martin,	1	22		21	2					8	25			
" J. C. Duy,	1	7		12		131	203	8		4	16		6	40
" W. F. Veil,	2	67		13		150	50	2		4	8		19	120
" W. Sharts,	1	44		9	2	50	401			6	30		15	93
" P. H. Denmler,	1	18		1	15	354	110	2	1	5	22		11	70
" G. Neff,	1	127		11		105	346				106		28	290
" F. W. Schmidt,	1	21		33	50	239	250	1	7	1	10		12	65
" E. Deyoe,	1	45		5		180		2		9	27		22	90
" G. J. Kempe,	1	438		9		108	164	1	4	10	66		3	50
" C. F. E. Stohman,	1	16		1		1123				2	10		6	80
" C. Rechenberg,	2	37		53		146					11			
" C. F. Schaeffer,	2	261		7		260					11			
" C. H. Siebke,	2	29		16		106					7			
" A. H. M. Held,	1	12		5	2	105	128	2				2	14	65
" C. A. Schroer,	2	5					190					14	13	69
" C. L. Knapp,	1													
" E. F. Schluefer,	1													
" G. S. Collins,	1													
" Glent congregation,														
Total,	33	1575	11	335	86	6672	3061	28	12	66	587	14	285	2118



*Additions.*

The following miscellaneous remarks were appended to the parochial reports of those whose names are respectively prefixed:

*Dr. Wackerhagen:* "A severe and protracted illness has prevented me from attending to my pastoral duties for a long period; hence, too, I have not made any collections for the Home Missionary and Education funds of our Ministerium. Rev. Dr Lintner has made some collections in my charge in aid of the Foreign Missionary cause."

*Rev. C. Martin:* "My congregation gave to the society for the promotion of collegiate and theological education at the west, \$81.00; to the Parent Education Society of our church, \$105.50; to our Foreign Missionary Treasury, \$60, of which \$36 were contributed by the Sunday School; to the English church of Washington, D. C., \$100. We are also supporting a student who is preparing for the ministry."

*Rev. J. C. Duy:* "During the past year collections to a considerable amount have been taken in aid not only of our own institutions, but also of the Am. Tract and Bible societies; of the latter my congregation has recently made me a life member."

*Rev. P. F. Dennler:* "During the past year my congregation at Lyons purchased a large church edifice, which was consecrated March 7, 1850."

*Rev. E. Deyoe:* "The expenses occasioned by building our parsonage have been fully paid, and we are now entirely free from debt."

*Rev. C. F. E. Stohlman:* "Collected for Foreign Missions, \$130, of which \$30 were paid by the Sunday School; \$50 for the Bible Society; \$500 for the poor."

*Rev. C. F. Schaeffer:* "In addition to various collections for benevolent purposes, and a box of clothing for the Home Missionary Society, valued at \$25, the Female Missionary and Education society appropriated \$46.52 to a beneficiary."

After the presentation of the parochial reports, the *Treasurer* read his annual report, which was accepted, and, together with



the accompanying accounts, referred to an *auditing committee*, consisting of Rev. G. Neff, and Messrs. R. Williams and W. Pultz.

Contributions from the pastors and congregations, for various purposes, were paid to the Treasurer. The details are embodied in the following table.

*Contributions.*

CONTRIBUTORS.	Synodical Fund.	Education.	Foreign Missions.	Domestic Missions	Widows' Fund.
Rev. H. N. Pohlman, . . . . .					3 00
Ebenezer Church, . . . . .	\$5 00		\$35 00	\$25 00	
Rev. A. Wackerhagen, . . . . .					3 00
German town and Livingston Church, . . . . .	3 00			4 50	
Rev. W. D. Strobel, . . . . .					3 00
Rev. P. F. Mayer, . . . . .	5 00				3 00
Rev. G. B. Miller, . . . . .	2 00				3 00
Hartwick Seminary Church, . . . . .			7 13		
Churchtown Church, . . . . .	5 00				
Rev. Mr. Mulheiser, . . . . .					3 00
Zion's Church, Rochester, . . . . .			20 00		
Rev. Mr. Kempe, . . . . .	1 00				
A Friend, . . . . .			20 00		
Rev. E. Deyoe, . . . . .					3 00
German Valley Church, . . . . .	3 00				
Rev. Mr. Siebke, . . . . .	1 00				3 00
Ellenville Church, Ulster Co., . . . . .			2 01		
Rev. Mr. Guenther, . . . . .					3 00
Buffalo Church, . . . . .	2 00		15 00		
Rev. Mr. Weitzel, . . . . .					3 00
Utica Church, . . . . .	2 00		4 00		
Rev. Mr. Rechenberg, . . . . .					3 00
Rev. Mr. Dennler, . . . . .	1 00	\$2 00	2 00	2 00	3 00
Lancaster Church, Erie County, . . . . .	2 00				
Rev. Mr. Schroer, . . . . .					3 00
Verona Church, . . . . .	1 75				
Ghent Church, . . . . .	2 00				
Ancram Church, . . . . .				5 81	
Rev. Mr. Wheeler, . . . . .					3 90
Rev. Mr. Neff, . . . . .					3 00
Red Hook Church, . . . . .			4 00	10 00	
Rhinebeck, First Church, . . . . .	5 00				
Pennsylvania Synod, Streit's legacy, . . . . .					50 00
Rev. C. A. Smith, . . . . .					3 00
Rhinebeck, Third Church, . . . . .	5 00				
Wurtenberg Church, . . . . .	5 00		5 00		
Rev. F. W. Schmidt, . . . . .	1 00				3 00
Rev. Mr. Wieskotten, . . . . .					3 00
St. James's N. Y. . . . .	10 00				

Adjourned. Session closed with prayer by Rev. Dr. Mayer.



## Second Session of the Synod.

MONDAY AFTERNOON, Half-past 2 o'clock.

Prayer by Rev. J. C. Duy.

The minutes of the morning session were read and approved.

### *Appeal of the H. M. Society.*

The committee appointed this morning to report on Dr. Morris's letter &c., presented the following report:

The committee appointed to prepare a minute on the "Appeal of the Executive Committee of the Home Missionary Society," report,

That we have been highly gratified with the zeal and spirit manifested by the officers and members of said society, and that we hail them as efficient co-adjutors in the great work of supplying the destitution of those who, in our own land, are perishing for lack of the bread and water of life. We recommend that their appeal be read before Synod, and that the following resolutions be adopted:

[V.] *Resolved*, That, in view of the destitution within the bounds of this Ministerium, as well as of the importunate claims made on our Home Missionary treasury, we find it advisable to operate through our own Executive Committee.

(VI.) *Resolved*, That if it be deemed desirable, we are willing to make a report of our proceedings to the Home Missionary Society, so that an aggregate of the whole of the operations of the church may appear in its reports.

Respectfully submitted,  
HENRY N. POHLMAN,  
GEORGE NEFF,  
C. H. SIEBKE.

The "Appeal" which was read, agreeably to the recommendation of the committee, was heard with deep interest; the whole report, including the two resolutions, was adopted.

### *President's Report.*

The second reading of the President's annual report was commenced, agreeably to resolution (I,) for the purpose of considering the several portions which required the special action of this body.



(a.) That *portion* which related to the decease of Rev. G. H. Miller, Assistant Professor at Hartwick Seminary, was referred to a *committee*, with instructions to prepare resolutions expressive of the general sense of the members of this body respecting the loss sustained by the death of our brother.

*Committee*: Rev. Messrs. C. A. Smith, Duy and Wetzel.

(b.) Those *portions* which relate to Rev. Messrs. A. Popplow and E. H. Buehre, Licentiates *ad interim*, and to Mr. W. Wolff, were respectively referred to the Ministerium.

(c.) That *portion* which related to the Ministerial council, assembled to investigate the case of G. W. Lewis, was referred to the Ministerium.

(d.) That *portion* which related to the request of the Newark congregation, for permission to withdraw from all connection with this body; having been read, the *committee* to whom a letter from said congregation had been referred during the morning session, presented the following report:

Your committee, appointed to examine the letter from the German congregation at Newark, respectfully report,

That they consider the letter to be highly offensive in its language and spirit; they recommend that, either no further notice be taken of it, or that this body seriously rebuke the writers and their associates for the unbecoming conduct of which they have been guilty.

G. B. MILLER,  
F. H. GUENTHER,  
S. SLOAT.

The report was adopted, the reading of the letter demanded and granted, and it was

(VII.) *Resolved*, That Rev. Messrs. F. W. Schmidt and H. N. Pohlman be appointed a committee, with instructions to answer the letter from the German congregation of Newark, explain anew to them the terms on which they can retain possession of their church edifice, and reaffirm the fruitlessness of any attempt on the part of said congregation to withdraw, in a disorderly manner from connection with this Ministerium.

(e.) That *portion* which related to the Waldoboro', Maine, congregation and its pastor, Rev. J. W. Starman, together with



the correspondence presented by the President, was referred to the *Executive Committee* of the Synodical Board of Education and Missions, with instructions to commission one of their number to visit Waldoboro' for the purpose of ascertaining fully the present position and the prospects of said congregation: if, on further consideration they believe this course to be expedient.

The consideration of the President's report was arrested by a motion for adjournment; the motion was temporarily suspended, and Rev. C. A. Smith applied for permission to be absent during the remaining sessions of Synod, which was granted.

Adjourned. Prayer by Rev. C. W. Schaeffer.

#### *Widows' Fund.*

Immediately after the adjournment the Trustees of the Widows' Fund called a meeting of the subscribers. The annual report was read, and agreeably to usage, is appended to the minutes.

MONDAY EVENING, Sept. 2, 1850.

The *missionary meeting* appointed for this evening, on which occasion several addresses would have been delivered, was necessarily postponed, owing to an unusually violent storm which prevailed during the afternoon and evening.

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### **Third Session of the Synod.**

TUESDAY, (Sept. 3), 9 o'clock, A. M.

Prayer by Dr. Miller. Roll called. Minutes read and approved. Rev. A. T. Geissenhainer, of the Pennsylvania Synod, was introduced and received as an advisory member.

#### *The late Rev. G. H. Miller.*

The committee appointed to prepare resolutions in reference to the death of Rev. G. H. Miller, submitted the following which were adopted:



Whereas, it has pleased our Heavenly Father, in his mysterious but wise Providence, to remove from this world, our young and esteemed brother, the Rev. George Hazelius Miller, whose talents, acquirements and piety gave promise of great future usefulness, and whose early departure has buried many high hopes as well as sundered many fond ties, therefore be it

(VIII.) *Resolved*, That it becomes us to bow in humble and uncomplaining submission under this afflictive event, regarding it as the dispensation of that infinitely wise and merciful Being, who does all things well and whose purposes, though often hidden, all constitute a part of the same great plan of Infinite Benevolence.

(IX.) *Resolved*, That we regard this event as another call upon those who remain, to engage with renewed activity in the service of our Divine Redeemer.

(X.) *Resolved*, That we extend to the bereaved friends the assurance of our warmest sympathy, and of our earnest hope that their strength may be equal to their day, their consolations abundant, and their hope of reunion firm and sure.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES A. SMITH,  
J. C. DUY,  
A. WETZEL.

#### *Minutes of the last Synod.*

The committee appointed by resolution (III), reported as follows:

The committee on the proceedings of the Synod of 1849, respectfully report that they do not find any items of unfinished business, &c., in the minutes of the last annual meeting, that call for the action of this Ministerium.

CHAS. MARTIN,  
A. WETZEL,  
HENRY STAATS.

#### *Reports of Delegates to Sister Synods.*

Rev. E. Deyoe, who had been appointed delegate from this body to the Hartwick Synod, and Rev. Dr. Mayer, delegate to the Synod of Pennsylvania, reported that they had attended the annual meetings of the synods which they had been respectively commissioned to visit, that they had been cordially received, and that they had been exceedingly gratified by all the proceedings which they had attended. They concluded by expressing the



hope that the correspondence and good understanding existing between our own and these bodies might be perpetual.

The consideration of the *President's Annual Report*, was resumed.

(*f.*) In reference to that *portion* which related to the "better organization of our churches, &c.," it was

(XI.) *Resolved*, That a committee, consisting of three members, be chosen by ballot, whose duty it shall be to prepare a system of church rules or by-laws, suitable to be proposed for the government of our congregations, and the more easy and prompt administration of their temporal and spiritual interests, and that such system of rules or by-laws be submitted to the Ministerium at the next annual meeting.

The following *committee* was elected: Rev. Dr. Mayer, Rev. C. F. E. Stohlman, Rev. W. D. Strobel.

(XII.) *Resolved*, That the President's annual report be adopted, and appended to the minutes.

#### *Hartwick Seminary.*

The committee on Hartwick Seminary presented their annual report, which was adopted, and ordered to be appended to the minutes.

#### *Conferences, &c.*

The subject of dividing the Ministerium into Conferences, and commending to them the care of our vacant congregations, was introduced. After a full discussion, it was

(XIII.) *Resolved*, That a committee be appointed, with instructions to investigate the different modes in which the territory embraced within the bounds of this Ministerium might be subdivided into Conference Districts, in order that more frequent meetings of neighboring members may be held, a spirit of piety in our churches be nourished, and the interests of Home and Foreign Missions be advanced; to devise means by which the wants of our vacant congregations may be more appropriately



supplied—and to submit a report on the whole subject at the next annual meeting of this Ministerium.

*Committee.*—Rev. Messrs. C. F. Schaeffer, H. N. Pohlman and F. W. Schmidt.

*German Hymn Book.*

The committee on the German Hymn Book, presented by the delegate of the Pennsylvania Synod, reported as follows:

Your committee appointed to report upon the German Hymn Book, published under the auspices of the Synods of Pennsylvania, New York and West Pennsylvania, recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

(XIV.) *Resolved*, That we believe the hymn book prepared under the auspices of the Synods of Pennsylvania, New York and West Pennsylvania, to be decidedly the best collection of hymns in the German language current in the United States; and that we view with decided disapprobation the surreptitious attempts made in some quarters to introduce other hymn books into our churches, while we recommend to them to adopt as early as possible the hymn book authorized by said Synods.

G. B. MILLER,  
F. GUENTHER,  
G. KEMPE.

The whole report was adopted.

*Delegates to General Synod.*

The delegates from this Ministerium to the General Synod, held in Charleston, S. C., submitted the following report, which was adopted:

The delegates to the General Synod report, that we were received at Charleston with all that hospitality and kindness by which the sunny south is characterized. The business before Synod was conducted in a spirit of brotherly love; and we believe that the meeting can not fail to exercise a favorable influence upon the interests of the church. As the proceedings have been already published and extensively circulated among the ministers of our church, we deem it unnecessary to refer in detail to the transactions of the Synod.



*Hillsboro' College and Seminary.*

The committee to whom the "Plea, &c," presented by Rev. S. W. Harkey, had been referred, presented the following report:

The committee appointed to prepare a minute in relation to the communication of the Rev. S. W. Harkey, report that said communication contains a Plea for Hillsboro' College and Seminary; and as said institution can not but exert a powerful influence upon the interests of our church in the valley of the Mississippi, we would recommend that the Rev. Mr. Harkey have an opportunity during the present session of presenting its claims to the consideration of this Ministerium.

H. N. POHLMAN,  
G. NEFF,  
C. H. SIEBKE.

The report was adopted, and it was

(XV.) *Resolved*, That Rev. Mr. Harkey be invited to address the Ministerium on the subject to which the report of the committee refers.

Agreeably to this resolution, Rev. Mr. Harkey made an extended statement in reference to the institution for which he is the agent, and presented many striking facts, which tended to show that the establishment and complete endowment of Hillsboro' College and Seminary are objects of the utmost importance. After he had concluded, the following resolutions were proposed and adopted:

(XVI.) *Resolved*, That we have heard with deep interest the statements made by the Rev. Mr. Harkey, in reference to the great west, and to the influence which the Hillsboro' institution is designed to exert in supplying the wants of our own Zion in that region.

(XVII.) *Resolved*, That the pressing wants of the great western field claim the active sympathies of the church in the eastern states.

(XVIII.) *Resolved*, That we recommend Rev. S. W. Harkey to the churches within our bounds, and express our sincere desire that they may liberally promote the interests of the institution which he represents.



Rev. Messrs. Deyoe and Winkelman asked the Synod to release them from the duty of further attendance at its session. Permission to withdraw was granted.

*Minutes of Sister Synods.*

The committee on minutes of Synods presented the annexed report, which was adopted:

Your committee, appointed to examine the minutes of sister Synods placed in their hands, having discharged the duty assigned to them, submit the following report:

(a.) The minutes of the Evangelical Lutheran *Synod of South Carolina* and adjacent states. This body assembled on the 10th day of last November in Lexington district. The officers are Rev. W. Berly, *Pres.*; Rev. J. F. W. Leppard, *Sec'y*; Mr. John Raugh, *Treas.* This Synod embraces 46 ministers, about 50 congregations and 3000 communicants. The members are zealously engaged in urging forward the benevolent operations of the church. Their attention has been particularly directed to the subjects of Education and Missions.

(b.) The minutes of the *English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Ohio*. This body assembled at Ashland. The officers are Rev. G. Leiter, *Pres.*; Rev. W. C. Ham, *Sec'y*. The minutes furnished the following statistics: 30 ministers, 74 congregations, 2669 communicants. These brethren are enlarging their boundaries, forming new congregations, and building churches, with commendable zeal. They bestow much attention on the institution in Springfield, and are deeply interested in Home Missions and in the Education cause.

(c.) The minutes of the Evangelical Lutheran *Synod of Pennsylvania*. The last annual meeting of this body was held in Pottsville, commencing May 26th. Our delegate, Rev. Dr. Mayer, was cordially received; the Rev. J. W. Richards was appointed delegate to this body, and Rev. C. W. Schaeffer, alternate. The officers are Rev. J. W. Richards, *Pres.*; Rev. J. Eyer, *Sec.*; Rev. J. C. Becker, *Treas.* This Synod embraces 75 ministers, 243 congregations, 99 parochial schools and 31,584 communicants. The contributions of these brethren to benevolent purposes have been very liberal.

(d.) The constitution of the *German Evangelical Church Union in Ohio* and the adjacent states. This document contains no synodical proceedings. It is signed by ten clergymen, as members of the Union. The following are the names of the officers: Rev. W. B. Rally, *Pres.*; Rev. J. W. Abele, *Sec'y*; Mr. J. Risser, *Treas.*



(e.) The minutes of the Evangelical Lutheran *Synod of Virginia*. The twentieth annual convention of this body was held in Madison, May 17-21, 1850. The officers are Rev. J. P. Cline, *Pres.*; Rev. J. F. Campbell, *Sec'y*; Rev. T. Miller, *Treas.* This Synod embraces 18 ordained ministers and 5 licentiates. They report 40 congregations, 2572 communicants.

Your committee have not attempted to give other statistical reports, e. g. Baptisms, &c. since so few Synods appear to have transmitted to this body their minutes for the current year, that such details would still have been imperfect, and they regret that the minutes of several Synods which we are always happy to receive, have not been placed in their hands; none have, as far as their knowledge extends, arrived from the west Pennsylvania, Maryland and other Synods, to all of which our own minutes are regularly sent. Your committee beg leave to offer the following resolution:

(XIX.) *Resolved*, That it is highly gratifying to this body to receive the minutes of our sister Synods, that we request said Synods to regard the regular transmission of copies of our own minutes as an expression of our continued desire to maintain a friendly correspondence with them, and that the reception of one or more copies of their minutes will always be respectfully acknowledged.

E. DEYOE,  
R. COLLIER,  
C. F. W. RECHENBERG.

Adjourned. Prayer by C. F. W. Rechenberg.

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### **Fourth Session of the Synod.**

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, Half-past 2 o'clock.

Prayer by Rev. C. Martin. Minutes of the morning session read and approved.

Rev. N. H. Cornell of the Hartwick Synod, and Rev. Mr. Van Wyck of the Reformed Dutch Church, were introduced and received as advisory members.

#### *Auditing Committee.*

The Auditing Committee presented the following report, which was adopted:



The committee appointed to examine the Treasurer's accounts respectfully report, that they have attended to the duty assigned to them, and find the accounts, &c. to be correct, and that a balance remains in the Treasurer's hands in favor of Synod, amounting to twenty-two dollars and six cents.

G. NEFF,  
R. WILLIAMS.  
W. P. PULTZ.

*The next Annual Meeting.*

(XX.) *Resolved*, That this Ministerium proceed to determine by ballot the place in which the next Synod shall be convened.

*Invitations* were presented to the Ministerium by the congregations of Ghent, Columbia Co., N. Y., Saddle River, N. J., and Buffalo.

The election resulted in the appointment of Saddle River, Bergen Co., N. J., as the place in which the fifty-sixth Synod of this Ministerium shall be held. And it was on motion,

(XXI.) *Resolved*, That the next annual meeting be held in the Lutheran church at *Saddle River*, on the Saturday preceding the first Sunday in September, A. D. 1851 (Sept. 6).

(XXII.) *Resolved*, That 500 copies of our minutes be printed and distributed in the usual manner.

*Delegates to other Synods.*

Rev. Dr. Strobel was appointed delegate to the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Pennsylvania, (Allentown, Trinity Sunday, June 15, 1851). *Alternate*: Rev. C. F. E. Stohlman. Rev. Dr. Miller, delegate to the Hartwick Synod, (Sept. 8, 1850). *Alternate*: Rev. F. W. Schmidt.

The *Missionary and Education* interests were discussed, and important statements respecting their present position were made, but the lateness of the hour arrested the discussion before any appropriate resolutions could be framed and adopted; the general sense of the Ministerium having been expressed, the *Executive Committee* was directed to continue the operations in which it was engaged.



Rev. F. W. Schmidt was appointed to prepare an abstract of the proceedings of the present annual meeting in the German language, and transmit it to the *Lutheran Kirchenbote* for publication.

(XXIII.) *Resolved*, That the thanks of this Ministerium be presented by the President at the close of the services this evening, to the members of this congregation and to other Christian friends, for the kindness and hospitality extended to us all, during the present meeting.

The business of this body having been transacted, the proceedings were closed. Previous to the dismissal of the lay delegates, all the members united in singing a hymn; after which the President addressed the Throne of Grace in prayer.

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### Ministerial Sessions.

FIRST SESSION.—*Monday morning, (Sept. 2,) half past 11 o'clock*

Prayer by Rev. C. F. E. Stohlman.

The licensed candidates, Rev. Messrs. Schroer and Knapp submitted their journals, and several sermons and essays, for the inspection of the Ministerium. The manuscripts were placed in the hands of the Examining Committee.

Rev. Mr. Schlueter, licensed candidate, whose engagements as a teacher had prevented him from preparing similar papers, was excused, and his application for a renewal of the license which had been given to him for one year, was referred to a subsequent meeting.

Rev. M. Waltermire, an ordained member of the Hartwick Synod, submitted letters of honorable dismissal from said Synod and made application to be received as a member of this Ministerium, having recently taken charge of congregations within its bounds.

(I.) *Resolved*, That the Secretary place the name of Rev. M. Waltermire on the roll, as a member of this body.



Rev. Prof. H. I. Schmidt, an ordained member of the Hartwick Synod, now residing within the bounds of this Ministerium, made application, by letter, to be received as a member of this Ministerium, and transmitted letters of honorable dismissal from the Hartwick Synod.

(II.) *Resolved*, That the Secretary place the name of the Rev. H. I. Schmidt on the roll, as a member of this body.

Rev. G. S. Collins, a licentiate of the East Pennsylvania Synod, submitted letters of honorable dismissal from said Synod, and made application to be received as a member of this Ministerium, having recently taken charge of congregations within its bounds.

(III.) *Resolved*, That the Secretary place the name of the Rev. G. S. Collins on the roll, as a member of this body.

Rev. M. Mallinson, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, presented letters of honorable dismissal, &c., applied for admission into the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and, as a minister of the gospel, made application to be received as a member of this body.

His application, credentials, &c., were referred to the Examining Committee, with instructions to said Committee to hold a theological colloquium with him, and report the result to this Ministerium.

Adjourned. Prayer by Rev. Mr. Guenther.

SECOND SESSION.—*Monday Afternoon, half past 5 o'clock.*

Prayer by Rev. F. W. Schmidt.

Minutes of the morning session read and approved.

Rev. Messrs. Knapp and Collins, licensed candidates, applied to this Ministerium for ordination. The Examining Committee was directed to hold a theological colloquium with them, and report the result to this body.

Applications for licensure were presented, through different members, by Messrs. E. H. Buehre, W. Wolff, A. Popplow, and D. Stahlschmidt. These applications were referred to the Examin-



ing Committee, with instructions to subject the applicants to the usual examination, and report the result to this body.

Adjourned. Prayer by Rev. J. Muhlheiser.

THIRD SESSION.—*Tuesday Morning, Sept. 3, half past 11 o'clock.*

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Harkey. Minutes read and approved.

That portion of the President's Annual Report which related to the Ministerial Council held in the case of G. W. Lewis, having been referred to the Ministerium, the President made a statement of the whole case, and presented sundry documents relating to it. The members of said Council had assembled in the Ghent church, on the 10th of April last; after having very fully and impartially investigated the case, and heard all the evidence, they unanimously adopted a resolution expressive of their conviction that he had been guilty of grossly immoral conduct. The result was, according to their sentence—his expulsion from this body, and his deposition from the ministry.

After all the facts in the case had been carefully considered, it was

(IV.) *Resolved*, That the action of said Ministerial Council receive the entire approval of this Ministerium, and that the sentence passed in reference to G. W. Lewis be hereby ratified.

The written apologies transmitted by Rev. W. F. Veil, for his repeated absence from the annual meetings of this body being deemed unsatisfactory, and his present circumstances being imperfectly known to the Ministerium, it was

(V.) *Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to investigate the case of Rev. W. F. Veil, and that they present a detailed report at the next annual meeting.

*Committee:* Rev. Messrs. Wetzel, Kempe and Rechenberg.

The written apologies transmitted by Rev. P. F. Dennler, for his repeated absence from the annual meetings of this body, as well as the circumstances in which his congregation in Lyons, Wayne co., is placed, being of a nature which required further investigation, it was



(VI.) *Resolved*, That Rev. Messrs. Rechenberg and Wetzel be hereby directed and authorized to visit the Lyons congregation, to take such measures for the promotion of its highest interests, as the circumstances may suggest, and to report the result of their proceedings at the next annual meeting.

The written apology for absence transmitted by Rev. A. H. M. Held, having been re-submitted to the Ministerium, it was

(VII.) *Resolved*, That the letter of Rev. A. H. M. Held does not afford sufficient grounds to this Ministerium for excusing his absence, and that such excuse be withheld.

The repeated absence of Rev. F. G. Maschop from the annual meetings without sufficient excuse, having, according to chap. viii § 4 of the constitution, subjected him to the penalty of forfeiting his right of membership, it was

(VIII.) *Resolved*, That previous to any final action in the case of Rev. Mr. Maschop, the President and the Rev. C. F. E. Stohman be directed to proceed to Newark, and, after having had an interview with him, report the result of their proceedings at the next annual meeting.

Adjourned. Prayer by Rev. R. Collier.

FOURTH SESSION.—*Tuesday Afternoon, half past 3 o'clock.*

Prayer by Rev. C. Riemensnyder. Minutes read and approved.

The Examining Committee, to whom had been referred various applications for licensure and ordination, report that, in conformity to the instructions of the Ministerium, they had held a theological colloquium with Rev. Mr. Mallinson, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, and also with Rev. Messrs. Knapp and Collins, who had applied for ordination; also, that they had examined the following applicants for licensure: Messrs. E. H. Buehre, W. Wolff, A. Popplow, and D. Stahlschmidt; further, they made very favorable statements respecting the essays and sermons submitted by Rev. Messrs. Schroer and Knapp; lastly, they referred to resolution V. of the second Ministerial Session of 1849, by virtue of which Rev. C. A. Schroer was permitted to be ordained at the present annual meeting, as well as F. W. Weis-



kotten, who, however, had within the past year been honorably dismissed to another Synod, within the bounds of which he is now laboring.

The report having been accepted, the several cases to which it referred, and on which the members of the committee verbally reported in detail, were successively considered by the Ministerium, as well as the credentials submitted by the applicants. The results were as follows:

(IX.) *Resolved*, That Rev. M. Mallinson be received as a full member of this body, and that the Secretary place his name on the roll, as an ordained minister, after he shall have subscribed the constitution of this Ministerium.

(X.) *Resolved*, That Rev. Messrs. Knapp and Collins be ordained this evening, in addition to Rev. C. A. Schroer.

(XI.) *Resolved*, That the license of Rev. E. F. Schlueter be renewed for one year from the present date.

(XII.) *Resolved*, That E. H. Buehre receive a license for one year from the present date.

(XIII.) *Resolved*, That as W. Wolff has not yet acquired the necessary qualifications for assuming the duties of the gospel ministry, no license be granted to him at the present time.

(XIV.) *Resolved*, That A. Popplow receive a license for one year from the present date, subject to the condition that he place himself under the supervision of Rev. F. W. Schmidt, and confine his pastoral labors to his present charge.

(XV.) *Resolved*, That D. Stahlschmidt receive a license for one year from the present date, subject to the condition that he place himself under the supervision of Rev. A. Wetzels, and confine his pastoral labors to his present charge.

Rev. J. Rugan, an ordained member of the Ev. Lutheran Synod of Pittsburgh, and pastor elect of the Ghent (Columbia co.) congregation, by letter informed the Ministerium that he had been unavoidably prevented from attending this meeting; and, having applied for admission as a member of this body, within the bounds of which he has been called to labor, and transmitted letters of honorable dismissal from the Pittsburgh Synod, it was



(XVI.) *Resolved*, That the Secretary place the name of Rev. J. Rugan on the roll, as a member of this Ministerium.

Rev. J. Muhlheiser, having removed from the bounds of this Synod to Milwaukie, and Rev. J. R. Keiser having assumed the pastoral charge of a congregation connected with the Hartwick Synod, applied for letters of dismission.

(XVII.) *Resolved*, That letters of honorable dismission be, at their own request, given to Rev. Messrs. Muhlheiser and Keiser, by the President of the Ministerium.

The *Executive Committee* of the Foreign Missionary Society presented a communication from the North German Missionary Society, of a highly interesting character. That society offers to place the mission in Rajamundy, India, hitherto sustained by it, under the entire control and care of our Foreign Missionary Society. It is not far distant from our own mission in India, with which the Executive Committee propose to associate it, retaining at the same time the two missionaries now in Rajamundy, whose pecuniary support by the North German M. Society, unfortunately can not be continued, owing to the political convulsions in Germany within the last two years. The whole subject awakened deep interest in the minds of the members; the brethren from the Pennsylvania and Maryland Synods assured the Executive Committee of their confident expectation that the bodies with which they were respectively connected, would cheerfully aid in sustaining the pecuniary burden which the acceptance of the offer would impose; and it was

(XVIII.) *Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Executive Committee of the Foreign Missionary Society of our church, to accept the offer of the North German Missionary Society.

Rev. Messrs. Waltermire, Collins, Mallinson and Rugan having requested that committees might be appointed to install them in their respective fields of labor, it was

(XIX.) *Resolved*, That the President appoint such committees after the adjournment of this body, and inform those who may be selected, of their appointment.

Adjourned. Prayer by Dr. Pohlman.



*Licensure and Ordination.*

TUESDAY EVENING, half-past 7 o'clock.

This evening Rev. Mr. Harkey delivered a discourse on 1 Thess. 5: 12, 13, suited to the occasion. At the conclusion of it, Messrs. E. H. Buehre, A. Popplow, and D. Stahlschmidt, arose and having answered the constitutional questions proposed to them, publicly received letters of license to preach the Gospel and administer the ordinances of God's house. Afterwards, Rev. Messrs. G. S. Collins, A. Schroer, and C. L. Knapp, Licentiates, also approached the altar, and having answered the constitutional questions, were solemnly *ordained* to the work of the ministry, according to the usages of the church. The services were concluded by the President, who, after discharging the duty of returning thanks to the congregation and citizens generally, for their hospitality, pronounced the usual benediction.

I certify that the foregoing is a true record of the proceedings of the fifty-fifth Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of the state of New York and adjacent states and countries.

CHARLES F. SCHAEFFER, *Secretary.*



## APPENDIX.

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### PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

I. I have, upon consultation with a number of the brethren, convened the Ministerium at Churchtown, being persuaded that the interests of the church required it. After the notices had been issued, changes took place at Saddle River, which would have rendered the step unnecessary, but too late to enable me to retrace it.

II. On the 19th January last, our young brother, Rev. George H. Miller, Assistant Professor at Hartwick Seminary, departed this life. He had given promise of much usefulness, possessing a cultivated mind and well-balanced character, sincerely devoted to the service of the Redeemer. His early departure directs us to cultivate an increased dependence upon the Lord of the harvest, as well as a constant readiness to quit the field and be at rest.

The different items of business commanding your notice will be embraced under the following heads:

### III. MINISTERIAL CHANGES.

Rev. F. W. Weiskotten received from me, Nov. 1, 1849, a dismission to the Tuscarawas Synod of Ohio, having taken charge of a congregation connected with it. Rev. I. R. Keiser relinquished, on the 1st of January, his charge at New Germantown, and is now settled at Schoharie. Rev. E. H. Schlueter notified me, on the 14th of February, that he had located himself at Poughkeepsie, with flattering prospects of organizing a German congregation in that village.

Rev. George Neff removed, on the 1st March, from Saddle River to his former charge at Passayunk, near the city of Philadelphia.

Rev. George S. Collins, of the East Penn. Synod, notified me, on the 30th July, that he had accepted a call, dated 1st April, to New Germantown.

Rev. Matthew Waltermire, of the Hartwick Synod, having succeeded in uniting the congregations at Saddle River and Ramapo, entered upon the discharge of his duties as their pastor on the 1st Sunday in August.



Rev. Wm. B. Askam vacated the church at Ancram, in April. For a few weeks it has been supplied by Rev. Mr. Mallinson, hitherto of the Methodist Church, who comes highly recommended to this body.

Rev. C. F. Dennler has recently communicated his resignation of the church in Lyons. I would call your attention to the contents of his letter.

The Church in Ghent has been without a pastor since 1st of April. It has been partially supplied by neighboring brethren. Rev. John Rugan, of the Pittsburg Synod, has been chosen pastor, and will be upon the ground in a very few days. I lay before you his application for membership.

#### IV. LICENSED CANDIDATES.

Rev. Messrs. Knapp, Schroer and Schlueter have all communicated with me in the course of the year, and I am gratified to hear that they are actively and usefully employed.

At the earnest recommendation of Rev. F. W. Schmidt and Dr. Pohlman, I granted license, on 29th October last, to Mr. Auguste Popplow, who had located in the vicinity of a large body of Germans, where his good character and abilities seemed to have presented him as a Providential supply for their destitution.

Having received applications from Mr. E. H. Böhre, of Williamsburgh, L. I., and Mr. William Wolff, of Jeffersonville, Sullivan county, I referred them to those members of the Examining Committee residing in the City of New York. Upon their report and advice, I granted to the former a license, and to the latter authority to preach until the present time.

#### V. CHURCH DEDICATIONS.

At Lyons, the congregation having purchased the Presbyterian Church, and refitted it, it was opened with appropriate services about the 1st of March.

At Rondout, the church erected by the congregation of Rev. Mr. Seibke, was solemnly consecrated on the 9th of June.

Though invited on both of these occasions, imperious circumstances prevented my gratifying the wishes of the brethren, as well as my own inclination.

#### VI. MINISTERIAL COUNCIL.

Circumstances having convinced the President that Rev. George W. Lewis had made himself amenable to discipline, and that the case demanded prompt and decided action, in accordance with the 5th Ministerial Resolution of the 52d Synod, I convened a council composed of the following brethren: Rev. Messrs.



Wackerhagen, D. D., Pohlman, D. D., C. A. Smith, I. C. Duy, Charles Martin and C. F. Schaeffer. After a careful examination, he was found guilty of conduct grossly immoral, and a resolution was adopted and published, deposing him from the ministry and expelling him from this body. A full minute of all the proceedings accompanies this report.

#### VII.—MISCELLANIES.

Shortly after our last Synod, I received a letter from the officers of St. John's Church, Newark, asking to be dismissed. In my reply, I gave them reasons why their request could not be granted, and ought not to be persevered in.

Between myself and Rev. J. W. Starman, a number of letters has been interchanged in reference to the church in Waldoboro'. Feeling that the time has come, in which we should take some decided step in this matter, I commend it to your serious attention.

Permit me to present you a brief

#### VIII.—RETROSPECTIVE VIEW OF OUR CHURCHES.

I have gathered the following facts from our printed reports, a consideration of which can not be unprofitable. They cover a space of thirty years, beginning with 1819. At that time the whole field of labor occupied by our Ministerium, was supplied with seventeen clergymen, ten of whom have since deceased, three connected themselves with other bodies—leaving only four still associated with us. These, in the first statistics I am possessed of, report 1179 infant baptisms, 270 confirmations, 2773 communicants, and \$48 collections. Twenty years ago the Hartwick Synod had its origin, and afterwards the Franckean sprung out of it. To form a correct estimate of the progress of our church, in the space of time alluded to, they must be taken into our calculations as occupying a part of the original field. I have formed the following table from reports of 1849:

Synods.	Ministers	Infant Bap.	Confirma's	Commun.	Collections.
New York, . . . . .	38	1529	386	7332	\$565
Hartwick, . . . . .	23	291	206	3235	367
Franckean, . . . . .	18	74	70	1941	282
Total, . . . . .	79	1894	662	12508	\$1214

I have excluded from this table all clergymen connected with the several Synods laboring beyond our original field, as well as their reports. In collections there is not embraced the large amount given to societies beyond our Synod, or to church buildings, &c., &c.; and in the N. Y. Synod most of the congrega-



tions have within 30 years erected parsonages, as well as new churches, or had to remodel old ones; and as our reports are deficient, we may put down our communicant members at about 20,000. Here is evidence of great and rapid progress, and that too with comparatively little effort, especially of a pecuniary nature. Without stopping to speculate upon the result, had we exerted our energies as others have done, there is enough to stimulate us to action for the future.

But this picture is not without its shade, as the inference is too plain, that whilst in certain channels there have been great advances, in others there has been a retrograde movement. As an illustration, I will state that in 1819 our infant baptisms amounted to 43 per cent of our membership—in 1849 only to 23 per cent, whilst the Hartwick Synod exhibits only 9 per cent, and the Franckean 4 per cent. Can this ordinance, endeared to us by all the recollections of the past—uniformly held by our church to rest upon a solid scripture foundation, and to be inseparably connected with the interests of the rising generation, as well as of the church, be getting into disuse; have we lost our faith in its validity, or what is the true cause of the facts exhibited above?

Again, in 1819 our reception of members amounted to 10 per cent of our whole membership, whilst in 1849 it reaches only  $5\frac{1}{4}$  per cent, the Hartwick Synod  $6\frac{1}{4}$  per cent, and the Franckean Synod less than 4 per cent. Here is a great falling off, and that too at a time when the churches are much more regularly supplied with preaching, and by a very active and efficient ministry. Both of these facts present a problem for our solution, which is worthy our serious and prayerful examination. The period embraced in these statistics, has been one of much excitement and activity in all branches of the Christian Church. In how far the varied measures which have been tried within this period, have tended to this result, or the labor which we have bestowed upon the external interests of the church, or the increased business activity consequent upon the progress of internal improvement amongst us, may have affected it, I am not prepared to say. But we should examine it. The mariner, though sailing with a favorable breeze and propitious skies, must, to avoid dangerous shoals, often stop and examine his course and his reckoning. So should we, with the responsibilities resting upon us, chartered to convey God's eternal truth to our fellow men, embrace every favorable opportunity of examining and testing the position we occupy.

#### IX.—THE PROSPECT BEFORE US.

Several congregations could be gathered together from the population along the Hudson. Thence there has been a contin-



ued emigration for many years to the western counties, especially Wayne, where there is now a large body of people, waiting to be gathered into our fold. The large German population of New York and Buffalo, as well as that scattered throughout the State, presents an almost boundless field for church extension, to which we have hitherto paid too little attention, and which would require years for us to occupy.

#### X.—WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Have we candidates enough educating to supply our natural decrease by age and death? What church is laboring to educate its own future pastor? Have we a Home Missionary in the field? We have given assistance to feeble churches, and have really by our fostering care accomplished wonders. But if we would meet the wants of our own people, those born amongst us, as well as those coming from the father land, we must move in the education cause; we must replenish our domestic missionary treasury. Our effort in India has shown us what we can do. Let us give the same energy to all our labors.

#### XI.—A BETTER ORGANIZATION OF OUR CHURCHES.

The President has perceived that many of our country charges have no regular by-laws. Licensed candidates have nothing for their guide. Europeans are utterly in the dark as to our system of church regulations. Has not the time arrived when the Ministerium might recommend a simple system of rules for the management of Lutheran churches? The advantages would be very great, and I am not aware of any evil likely to result.

We need something, too, to call out a more general expression of interest in our synodical transactions. Can we be as efficient as we ought? Is it possible for our churches to be co-operating with us, with a lay representation of perhaps ten, when we ought to have thirty. We can not by any possibility discharge our duties until the people are found interested in all our movements and co-operating with us.

I have received several communications not connected with our ordinary business, which will be presented in proper order.

I would conclude this report by uniting with you in thanks to God for the many mercies conferred upon us, and in imploring his future guidance and blessing.

WILLIAM D. STROBEL,

Churchtown, Sept. 1st, 1850.



## WIDOWS' FUND REPORT.

The Trustees of the Widows' Fund report to the subscribers that the number of members who have punctually paid up their dues to this date, is the same as at last report; but that since that date, the Rev. G. H. Miller having deceased, their remain twenty-two persons interested in the fund.

The property now consists of the following:

Bonds and Mortgages bearing an	
interest of 7 per cent per annum, - - - - -	\$3000.00
Stock in Bowery Insurance Company, at par, - -	125.00
Stock in Ocean Bank of New York, - - - - -	1000.00
	<hr/>
	4125.00
Deduct, due Treasurer, - - - - -	10.45
	<hr/>
Total, - - - - -	\$4114.55

Forty-nine dollars have been received from the Streit legacy.

The agent for the Hymn Book has rendered no account for two years, although repeatedly requested to do so by the Treasurer; it will probably be difficult to make any other arrangement, yet it is desirable that some one should have charge of this property, who feels more interested in our association, and will render regular annual accounts.

There is an uncollected dividend due on Fire stock, and a small amount of interest on S. Van Wart's mortgage. These two items would increase the present funds to about \$4150, in addition to which the Fire Insurance stock is now worth 50 per cent over cost. Thus it appears that the property of the association has increased beyond estimate, and with proper management promises to effect the object for which the fund was established.

Thus far there have been no applications for relief.

The term of service of the Rev. W. D. Strobel and Rev. Chs. A. Smith expires at this time.\*

On behalf of the Board,

P. W. ENGS, *Sec'y.*

Churchtown, Sept. 2, 1850.

\* These gentlemen were unanimously reelected.



## REPORT ON HARTWICK SEMINARY.

The committee have much pleasure in reporting that the Institution is in a flourishing condition; and deserves the confidence and support of all the churches. The death of the Rev. G. H. Miller, acting Principal of the Seminary, has rendered the past year one of peculiar trial; but the interests of the Institution have been fully sustained by our worthy Professor, the Rev. Dr. Miller, and his co-adjutors; and there has been no falling off in the number of students, as there have been in attendance during the academical year fifty-eight classical, and eight theological. At the annual meeting of the board of Trustees the funds were reported in good condition; and the Rev. Levi Sternberg was elected as Principal of the Institution. This appointment if accepted can not but exert a favorable influence, and will be regarded by all the friends of Hartwick Seminary as an earnest of good things to come.

HENRY N. POHLMAN,  
WM. D. STROBEL,  
C. A. SMITH